WE CLAIM:

1. An awning retention device for securing a recreational vehicle awning supported by a nested arm support structure, the device comprising:

an elongate member;

a first hook section coupled with the elongate member at a first end and configured to at least partially surround an upper portion of the nested awning support arm structure; and

a second bent section coupled with the elongate member at a second end and configured to secure the awning retention device to a lower portion of the nested awning support arm structure.

2. The awning retention device of claim 1, wherein the first hook section is bent relative to the elongate member at an angle of between approximately 10 and 45 degrees.

3. The awning retention device of claim 2, wherein the first hook section is bent relative to the elongate member at an angle of approximately 28 degrees.

4. The awning retention device of claim 1, wherein the first hook section includes:

a first transverse section oriented substantially orthogonal to the elongate member;

a second transverse section generally parallel to the first transverse section; and

a diagonal section oriented substantially orthogonal to the first and second transverse sections and connecting the first and second transverse sections.

5. The awning retention device of claim 4, further comprising a retention bend oriented to extend toward the nested support arm structure from the second transverse section.

6. The awning retention device of claim 4, further comprising a retention bend oriented substantially orthogonal to the second transverse section.

7. The awning retention device of claim 5, wherein the retention bend is oriented at an angle in the range of approximately 30 to 90 degrees relative to the second transverse section.

8. The awning retention device of claim 4, wherein the diagonal section is oriented at an angle of between approximately 10 and 45 degrees from the elongate member.

9. The awning retention device of claim 4, wherein the diagonal section is oriented at an angle of approximately 28 degrees from the elongate member.

10. The awning retention device of claim 1, further comprising a protective coating substantially covering the first hook section.

11. The awning retention device of claim 1, further comprising a protective coating substantially covering the second bent section.

12. The awning retention device of claim 1, wherein the second bent section includes a third transverse section oriented generally orthogonal to the elongate member.

13. The awning retention device of claim 12, further comprising a retention bend oriented to extend toward the nested support arm structure.

14. The awning retention device of claim 13, wherein the retention bend is substantially orthogonal to the third transverse section.

15. The awning retention device of claim 13, wherein the retention bend is oriented at an angle in the range of approximately 30 to 90 degrees relative to the third transverse section.

16. The awning retention device of claim 13, further comprising a secondary fastener connected to the elongate member and configured to at least partially wrap around the nested arm support structure.

17. A method of securing a recreational vehicle awning supported by a nested arm support structure during transport, the method comprising:

enclosing an upper section of the nested support arm structure with a hook section, coupled with a first section of an elongate member;

bending the elongate member downward, thereby causing the hook section to press the nested support arm structure together; and

securing a bent section coupled with the elongate member, distal from the hook section, behind a lower section of the nested support arm structure.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the first hook section is bent relative to the elongate member at an angle of between approximately 10 and 45 degrees.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the first hook section is bent relative to the elongate member at an angle of approximately 28 degrees.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the bent section includes a retention bend configured to retain the bent section behind the lower section of the nested support arm structure.